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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3272  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 8121  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5362  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9215  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5254  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SEOUL 000246

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STATE FOR EAP/PD FOR SWALKER, EAP/P, EAP/K  
STATE PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAX/ITP SCHEIKH  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IN SEOUL

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

Secretary Clinton's Trip to Asia

"Agenda for Clinton Visit"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (02/18): "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Seoul tomorrow is being viewed with high expectations and interest, not only because the Obama Administration chose East Asia over previous favored destinations - Europe and the Middle East - as its top diplomat's first overseas trip, but also in view of heightening fears about military provocation by North Korea. Pyongyang's threats of a long-range ballistic missile launch are largely regarded as empty rhetoric, timed with Clinton's first foreign trip to get attention from the U.S. and the international community. Still, they have succeeded in exacerbating security fears here. Accordingly, her visit should serve to allay the concerns of the ROK people. Seoul must give Secretary Clinton a full account of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and discuss a concerted response to the North's provocative actions. The two allies must coordinate their plans to encompass the worst-case scenario of a North Korean missile launch and an attack on ROK territory, and reconfirm their joint stance and efforts to denuclearize North Korea."

Stephens